

# Quiripi language

**Quiripi** (pronounced /'kwɪrɪpi:/,[2] also known as **Quiripi-Unquachog**, **Quiripi-Naugatuck**, and **Wampano**) was an Algonquian language formerly spoken by the indigenous people of southwestern Connecticut and central Long Island,<sup>[3][4]</sup> including the Quinnipiac, Unquachog, Mattabesic, Podunk, Tunxis, and Paugussett (subgroups Naugatuck, Potatuck, Weantinock). It has been effectively extinct since the end of the 19th century,<sup>[5]</sup> although Frank T. Siebert, Jr., was able to record a few Unquachog words from an elderly woman in 1932.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Contents

- Affiliation and dialects**
- Attestation**
- Phonology**
- Orthography**
- References**
- Bibliography**
- External links**

## Affiliation and dialects

Quiripi is considered to have been a member of the Eastern Algonquian branch of the Algonquian language family.<sup>[7][8]</sup> It shared a number of linguistic features with the other Algonquian languages of southern New England, such as Massachusetts and Mohegan-Pequot, including the shifting of Proto-Eastern Algonquian \*/a:/ and \*/e:/ to /ã:/ and /a:/, respectively, and the palatalization of earlier \*/k/ before certain front vowels.<sup>[9][10]</sup> There appear to have been two major dialects of Quiripi: an "insular" dialect spoken on Long Island by the Unquachog and a "mainland" dialect spoken by the other groups in Connecticut, principally the Quinnipiac.<sup>[11][12]</sup>

## Attestation

Quiripi is very poorly attested,<sup>[13]</sup> though some sources do exist. One of the earliest Quiripi vocabularies was a 67-page bilingual catechism compiled in 1658 by Abraham Pierson, the elder, during his ministry at Branford, Connecticut,<sup>[3][14]</sup> which remains the chief source of modern conclusions about Quiripi.<sup>[4]</sup> Unfortunately, the catechism was "poorly translated" by Pierson,<sup>[4]</sup> containing an "unidiomatic, non-Algonquian sentence structure."<sup>[15]</sup> It also displays signs of dialect mixture.<sup>[16]</sup> Other sources of information on the language include a vocabulary collected by Rev. Ezra Stiles in the late 1700s<sup>[17]</sup> and a 202-word

	<b>Quiripi</b>
	<b>Wampano</b>
<b>Native to</b>	United States
<b>Extinct</b>	ca. 1900
<b>Language family</b>	Algonic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Algonquian</li> <li>▪ Eastern Algonquian</li> <li>▪ Quiripi</li> </ul>
	<b>Language codes</b>
<b>ISO 639-3</b>	qyp
<b>Glottolog</b>	wamp1250 ( <a href="http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/wamp1250">http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/wamp1250</a> ) <sup>[1]</sup>
	
	The location of the Paugussett, Tunxis, Podunk, Quinnipiac, Mattabesic, Unquachog and their neighbors, c. 1600

Unquachog vocabulary recorded by [Thomas Jefferson](#) in 1791,<sup>[6]</sup> though the Jefferson vocabulary also shows clear signs of dialect mixture and "external influences."<sup>[18]</sup> Additionally, three early hymns written circa 1740 at the [Moravian](#) Shekomeko mission near [Kent, Connecticut](#), have been translated by Carl Masthay.<sup>[19]</sup>

## Phonology

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Linguist [Blair Rudes](#) attempted to reconstitute the phonology of Quiripi, using the extant documentation, comparison with related Algonquian languages, as "reconstructing forward" from [Proto-Algonquian](#).<sup>[20]</sup> In Rudes' analysis, Quiripi contained the following consonant phonemes:<sup>[21]</sup>

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<b>Plosive</b>	p	t	tʃ	k	
<b>Fricative</b>		s	(ʃ)*		h
<b>Nasal</b>	m	n			
<b>Rhotic</b>		r			
<b>Semivowel</b>	w		j		

▀ /ʃ/ was a distinct phoneme only in the mainland dialect; in Unquachog it had merged with /s/

Quiripi's vowel system as reconstituted by Rudes was similar to that of the other Southern New England Algonquian languages. It consisted of two short vowels /a/ and /ə/, and four long vowels /a:/, /i:/, /u:/, and /ʌ/.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Orthography

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- a - [ʌ]
- â - [a:]
- ch - [tʃ]
- h - [h]
- i - [i:]
- k - [k]
- m - [m]
- n - [n]
- o - [u:]
- ô - [ʌ]
- p - [p]
- r - [r]
- s - [s]
- sh - [ʃ]
- t - [t]
- u - [ə]
- w - [w]
- y - [j]<sup>[22]</sup>

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1. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "[Wampano](http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/wamp1250)" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/wamp1250>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
2. Salwen (1978:175)
3. Rudes (1997:1)
4. Goddard (1978:72)
5. Goddard (1978:71)
6. Rudes (1997:5)
7. Goddard (1978)
8. Mithun (1999:327)
9. Goddard (1978:75)
10. Rudes (1997:27)
11. Rudes (1997:6-7)
12. Costa (2007:116, 119)
13. Costa (2007:116, 118)
14. Mithun (1999:331)
15. Costa (2007:118)
16. Costa (2007:116)
17. Rudes (1997:4)
18. Costa (2007:120)
19. Rudes (1997:2)
20. Rudes (1997:6)
21. Rudes (2007:18)
22. [Quiripi language, alphabet, and pronunciation](https://www.omniglot.com/writing/quiripi.htm) (<https://www.omniglot.com/writing/quiripi.htm>), Omniglot.

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## External links

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- [OLAC resources in and about the Quiripi language](http://www.language-archives.org/language/qyp) (<http://www.language-archives.org/language/qyp>)
  - [Quiripi language](http://www.native-languages.org/quiripi.htm) (<http://www.native-languages.org/quiripi.htm>)
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